

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

March 2024 Grand Jury

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,

Plaintiff,

v.

LUIS RAMIREZ,
aka "Lil Man,"
JOSE JONATHAN RUBALCABA ALARCON,
aka "Demon," and
GILBERT REY MARTINEZ,
aka "Bams,"
aka "Bam Bam,"

Defendants.

ED CR No. **24-00140-SB**

I N D I C T M E N T

[18 U.S.C. § 1951(a): Conspiracy to Commit Extortion and Attempted Extortion; 18 U.S.C. § 1959(a)(1): Violent Crime in Aid of Racketeering; 18 U.S.C. § 1201(a)(1): Kidnapping; 18 U.S.C. §§ 981(a)(1)(C), 924(d) and 28 U.S.C. § 2461(c): Criminal Forfeiture]

The Grand Jury charges:

COUNT ONE

[18 U.S.C. § 1951(a)]

[ALL DEFENDANTS]

A. INTRODUCTORY ALLEGATIONS

At times relevant to this Indictment:

1. Gas & Co. operated a gasoline station and convenience store located at 8790 Mission Boulevard in Jurupa Valley in Riverside County.

1 2. Westside Riva (hereinafter referred to as "WSR") members
2 operated a clothing store called Rubidoux Fashion located at 5582
3 Mission Boulevard in Riverside.

4 3. The back rooms of Rubidoux Fashion functioned as a meeting
5 area for WSR members and associates.

6 4. Defendant LUIS RAMIREZ, also known as ("aka") "Lil Man,"
7 was an inmate at Solano State Prison, a California Department of
8 Corrections and Rehabilitation facility, located in Vacaville,
9 California.

10 B. OBJECTS OF THE CONSPIRACY

11 Beginning on an unknown date, but no later than September 7,
12 2023, and continuing until on or about October 1, 2023, in Riverside
13 County, within the Central District of California, and elsewhere,
14 defendants RAMIREZ, JOSE JONATHAN RUBALCABA ALARCON, aka "Demon,"
15 GILBERT REY MARTINEZ, aka "Bams," aka "Bam Bam," Co-Conspirator 1,
16 Co-Conspirator 2, Co-Conspirator 3, and others known and unknown to
17 the Grand Jury, conspired with each other to knowingly and
18 intentionally interfere with commerce by extortion, in violation of
19 Title 18, United States Code, Section 1951(a).

20 C. MEANS BY WHICH THE OBJECT OF THE CONSPIRACY WAS TO BE
21 ACCOMPLISHED

22 The object of the conspiracy was to be accomplished, in
23 substance, as follows:

24 1. From prison, and using contraband cell phones, defendant
25 RAMIREZ would communicate with members of the Westside Riva criminal
26 street gang (hereinafter referred to as "WSR") and direct gang
27 members to extort business operating within the territory that WSR
28 claimed as its own.

1 2. At the direction of defendant RAMIREZ, defendant RUBALCABA,
2 Co-Conspirator 1, Co-Conspirator 2, and Co-Conspirator 3 would
3 identify local business to target for extortion.

4 3. Defendant RUBALCABA, Co-Conspirator 1, Co-Conspirator 2,
5 and Co-Conspirator 3 would visit local businesses, and induce fear in
6 the business operators by identifying themselves as members of WSR,
7 and by demanding the payment of taxes for protection and for the
8 privilege of operating within Westside Riva territory.

9 4. Defendant RUBALCABA and other co-conspirators would collect
10 extortion payments from local business operators and would use Person
11 1 to help collect and store extortionate payments.

12 5. Defendant RUBALCABA would keep a portion of those extortion
13 payments for himself and would send a portion of the extortion
14 payments to defendant RAMIREZ through an electronic transfer of funds
15 to defendant RAMIREZ's prison inmate financial account.

16 6. Defendants RAMIREZ, RUBALCABA, and MARTINEZ would use
17 violence, threats of violence, and imprisonment to obtain extortion
18 payments.

19 D. OVERT ACTS

20 In furtherance of the conspiracy, and to accomplish the object
21 of the conspiracy, on or about the following dates, defendants
22 RAMIREZ, RUBALCABA, Co-Conspirator 1, Co-Conspirator 2, Co-
23 Conspirator 3, and others known and unknown to the Grand Jury,
24 committed various overt acts within the Central District of
25 California, and elsewhere, including, but not limited to, the
26 following:

27 Overt Act No. 1: On September 7, 2023, defendant RUBALCABA
28 and Co-Conspirator 1 drove to Gas & Co. in a black Cadillac CTS.

1 Overt Act No. 2: On September 7, 2023, defendant RUBALCABA
2 and Co-Conspirator 1 went into the Gas & Co. and spoke with a
3 cashier, demanding to speak with the owner of Gas & Co.

4 Overt Act No. 3: On September 7, 2023, after being connected
5 with the owner of Gas & Co. by telephone, defendant RUBALCABA told
6 the owner that he would need to pay taxes to WSR because Gas & Co.
7 was operating online gambling games within WSR-controlled territory.

8 Overt Act No. 4: On September 7, 2023, when the owner of Gas
9 & Co. told defendant RUBALCABA that Gas & Co. would not be paying
10 taxes to WSR, defendant RUBALCABA told the owner of Gas & Co. that
11 the owner would have to speak with his boss, referring to defendant
12 RAMIREZ.

13 Overt Act No. 5: On September 8, 2023, defendant RUBALCABA
14 and Co-Conspirator 2 drove to Gas & Co. in a black Honda Civic.

15 Overt Act No. 6: On September 8, 2023, defendant RUBALCABA
16 and Co-Conspirator 2 went into Gas & Co. and defendant RUBALCABA,
17 while holding a cell phone in his hand, told a cashier that defendant
18 RUBALCABA's boss was on the phone and that the boss wanted to talk
19 with the cashier's boss.

20 Overt Act No. 7: On September 8, 2023, defendant RAMIREZ
21 spoke to the Gas & Co. cashier through the cell phone that defendant
22 RUBALCABA had brought into Gas & Co.

23 Overt Act No. 8: On September 8, 2023, defendant RUBALCABA
24 said to defendant RAMIREZ and the cashier that the Gas & Co. owner
25 was trying to play stupid with us.

26 Overt Act No. 9: On September 8, 2023, Person 1 possessed
27 \$7,247 in Person 1's bag, which was later seized by law enforcement
28 officers who had stopped the black Cadillac CTS in which Person 1 was

1 riding along with Co-Conspirator 1, Co-Conspirator 3, and another
2 person.

3 Overt Act No. 10: On September 22, 2023, defendant RAMIREZ
4 told Person 1 that Person 1 had to get him the \$7,247 that had been
5 seized by law enforcement from Person 1's bag.

6 Overt Act No. 11: On September 27, 2023, defendants RUBALCABA
7 and MARTINEZ, at defendant RAMIREZ's direction, abducted Person 1 by
8 taking Person 1 against Person 1's will, and confining Person 1
9 within Rubidoux Fashion.

COUNTS TWO & THREE

[18 U.S.C. § 1951(a), 2(a)]

[DEFENDANTS RAMIREZ & RUBALCABA]

On or about the following dates, in Riverside County, within the Central District of California, and elsewhere, defendants LUIS RAMIREZ, also known as ("aka") "Lil Man," and JOSE JONATHAN RUBALCABA ALARCON, aka "Demon," and others known and unknown to the Grand Jury, each aiding and abetting the others, knowingly and with intent to obtain property, attempted to obstruct, delay, and affect interstate commerce by committing extortion, in that defendants RAMIREZ and RUBALCABA attempted to obtain property from Person 2, the owner of Gas & Co. located at 8790 Mission Boulevard in Jurupa Valley in Riverside County (Gas & Co.), by means of threatened force, violence, and fear of injury, immediate and future, to Person 2, the owner of Gas & Co. business, Person 3, an employee at Gas & Co. business, and the Gas & Co. business:

COUNT	DATE
TWO	September 7, 2023
THREE	September 8, 2023

COUNT FOUR

[18 U.S.C. § 1959(a)(1), 2(a)]

[ALL DEFENDANTS]

A. GENERAL ALLEGATION

At times relevant to this Indictment:

1. THE ENTERPRISE

1. Defendants LUIS RAMIREZ, also known as ("aka") "Lil Man," ("RAMIREZ"), JOSE JONATHAN RUBALCABA ALARCON, aka "Demon" ("RUBALCABA"), GILBERT REY MARTINEZ, aka "Bams," aka "Bam Bam" ("MARTINEZ"), and others known and unknown to the Grand Jury, were members and associates of the Westside Riva street gang (hereinafter referred to as "WSR"), a criminal organization operating in and around Riverside, California, whose members and associates engaged in, among other things, numerous acts of violence and other crimes, including acts involving murder, robbery, extortion, and trafficking in narcotics.

2. WSR is a multi-generational gang founded in Jurupa Valley, California in the late 1950s and early 1960s. The gang began as a small group of individuals who lived in the Jurupa Valley area. WSR was primarily involved in street robberies, drug sales, and fighting with rival gang members in "turf battles." Through the years, the gang dramatically increased its membership by absorbing smaller, less powerful local gangs.

3. WSR is primarily a Latino street gang. WSR gang members were involved with various violent crimes including acts involving murder, assault, robbery, and extortion, as well as narcotics trafficking, burglary, vehicle theft, illegal gambling, and money

1 laundering. Associates of the WSR gang were aware of, participated
2 in, and benefited from these criminal activities.

3 4. While WSR's "territory" has changed over time, it
4 historically has been contained within the approximate area bordered
5 by Highway 60 to the North and East, the Santa Ana River to the South
6 and East, and Pedley Road to the West. Based on the strength of its
7 numbers and its reputation for violence, WSR controlled drug
8 trafficking and other illegal activities within its territory,
9 including the area in which the kidnapping charged in Paragraph 10
10 below occurred.

11 5. WSR was controlled by members and associates of the
12 "Mexican Mafia," or "La Eme." The Mexican Mafia was an organized
13 group of individuals who controlled much of the drug distribution and
14 other criminal activities within California State Prisons, local
15 county jails, and some federal prisons. Members and associates of WSR
16 regularly paid extortionate taxes to Mexican Mafia members who
17 oversaw the gang. The primary task of WSR leadership on the streets
18 is to collect extortionate taxes from drug dealers, gambling
19 establishments, smoke shops and other illicit or near-illicit
20 businesses operating within WSR's territory, and to punish
21 individuals who fail to pay the requisite extortionate taxes.

22 6. To provide a revenue source, increase and maintain position
23 within WSR, and instill a climate of fear within WSR's territory, WSR
24 members and associates extorted drug dealers, gambling
25 establishments, smoke shops and other illicit or near-illicit
26 businesses operating within WSR's territory and committed acts of
27 theft and robbery against individuals who refused to pay extortionate
28 taxes. WSR members paid a portion of the extortion proceeds up to

1 the Mexican Mafia members and associates. The appropriate amount of
2 such a payment was typically one third of the take. These payments
3 to the Mexican Mafia helped ensure the assistance of the Mexican
4 Mafia, should members or associates of WSR require it.

5 7. WSR, including its leaders, members, and associates,
6 constituted an enterprise as defined by Title 18, United States Code,
7 Section 1959(b)(2), that is, a group of individuals associated in
8 fact that was engaged in, and the activities of which affected,
9 interstate and foreign commerce. WSR constituted an ongoing
10 organization whose members and associates functioned as a continuing
11 unit for a common purpose of achieving the objectives of the
12 enterprise.

13 2. PURPOSES OF THE ENTERPRISE

14 8. The purposes of the WSR enterprise included, but were not
15 limited to, the following:

16 a. Enriching members and associates of WSR through, among
17 other things, the control of, and participation in, the trafficking
18 of controlled substances in WSR territory and elsewhere, the
19 operation of illegal gambling establishments, known as casitas, the
20 collection of extortionate taxes, and commission of robberies;

21 b. Maintaining control over all WSR territory;

22 c. Preserving, protecting, and expanding the power of WSR
23 using intimidation, violence, and threats of violence;

24 d. Violently retaliating against rival gang members or
25 perceived outsiders who challenged WSR authority or attempted to
26 encroach on WSR territory; and

27 e. Exposing and punishing WSR members and associates who
28 were perceived to have violated WSR codes of conduct.

1 3. THE MEANS AND METHODS OF THE ENTERPRISE

2 9. The means and methods by which the members and associates
3 of WSR conducted and participated in the conduct of the affairs of
4 the WSR criminal enterprise included the following:

5 a. Members and associates of WSR committed, attempted to
6 commit, conspired to commit, and threatened to commit acts of
7 violence, including assault, kidnapping, murder and robbery, to
8 preserve, protect, and expand WSR's criminal operations;

9 b. Members and associates of WSR promoted a climate of
10 fear through acts of violence and threats to commit acts of violence;

11 c. Leaders of WSR disseminated rules and orders to be
12 followed by all participants in the WSR enterprise; and

13 d. Members and associates of WSR engaged in the
14 trafficking of controlled substances, committed robberies, operated
15 illicit gambling establishments, and collected extortionate taxes to
16 generate revenue for the enterprise.

17 10. The WSR enterprise, through its members, leaders, and
18 associates engaged in racketeering activity, as defined in Title 18,
19 United States Code, Sections 1959(b)(1) and 1961(1), that is acts
20 indictable under Title 18, United States Code, Section 1951 (relating
21 to interference with commerce by robbery or extortion).

22 B. VIOLENT CRIME IN AID OF RACKETEERING

23 11. Beginning on an unknown date, and continuing to on or about
24 October 1, 2023, in Riverside County, within the Central District of
25 California, as consideration for the receipt of, and as consideration
26 for a promise and agreement to pay, anything of pecuniary value from
27 WSR, and for the purpose of gaining entrance to and maintaining and
28 increasing position in WSR, an enterprise engaged in racketeering

1 activity, defendants RAMIREZ, RUBALCABA, and MARTINEZ, and others
2 known and unknown to the Grand Jury, each aiding and abetting the
3 other, knowingly, willfully and unlawfully kidnapped Person 1, in
4 violation of California Penal Code Sections 207 and 209 and 31.

COUNT FIVE

[18 U.S.C. §§ 1201(a)(1), 2(a)]

[ALL DEFENDANTS]

Beginning on an unknown date and continuing to on or about October 1, 2023, in Riverside County, within the Central District of California, and elsewhere, defendants LUIS RAMIREZ, also known as ("aka") "Lil Man," JOSE JONATHAN RUBALCABA ALARCON, aka "Demon," and GILBERT REY MARTINEZ, aka "Bams," aka "Bam Bam," and others known and unknown to the Grand Jury, each aiding and abetting the other, knowingly, willfully, and unlawfully seized, confined, inveigled, decoyed, kidnapped, abducted, and carried away Person 1, and held Person 1 for ransom and reward and otherwise, and in committing and in furtherance of the commission of the offense, used a means, facility, and instrumentality of interstate and foreign commerce, namely, cell phones and web-based video surveillance platforms.

FORFEITURE ALLEGATION ONE

[18 U.S.C. § 981(a)(1)(C) and 28 U.S.C. § 2461(c)]

1. Pursuant to Rule 32.2 of the Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure, notice is hereby given that the United States of America will seek forfeiture as part of any sentence, pursuant to Title 18, United States Code, Section 981(a)(1)(C) and Title 28, United States Code, Section 2461(c), in the event of any defendant's conviction of the offenses set forth in any of Counts One through Three, or Five, of this Indictment.

2. Any defendant so convicted shall forfeit to the United States of America the following:

(a) All right, title, and interest in any and all property, real or personal, constituting, or derived from, any proceeds traceable to any of the offenses; and

(b) To the extent such property is not available for forfeiture, a sum of money equal to the total value of the property described in subparagraph (a).

3. Pursuant to Title 21, United States Code, Section 853(p), as incorporated by Title 28, United States Code, Section 2461(c), any defendant so convicted shall forfeit substitute property, up to the value of the property described in the preceding paragraph if, as the result of any act or omission of the defendant, the property described in the preceding paragraph or any portion thereof (a) cannot be located upon the exercise of due diligence; (b) has been transferred, sold to, or deposited with a third party; (c) has been placed beyond the jurisdiction of the court; (d) has been substantially diminished in value; or (e) has been commingled with other property that cannot be divided without difficulty.

FORFEITURE ALLEGATION TWO

[18 U.S.C. §§ 981(a)(1)(C), 924(d) and 28 U.S.C. § 2461(c)]

4. Pursuant to Rule 32.2 of the Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure, notice is hereby given that the United States of America will seek forfeiture as part of any sentence, pursuant to Title 18, United States Code, Sections 981(a)(1)(C), 924(d), and Title 28, United States Code, Section 2461(c), in the event of any defendant's conviction of the offenses set forth in Count Four of this Indictment.

5. Any defendant so convicted shall forfeit to the United States of America the following:

(a) All right, title, and interest in any and all property, real or personal, constituting, or derived from, any proceeds traceable to the offenses;

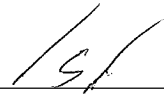
(b) All right, title, and interest in any firearm or ammunition involved in or used in any such offense; and

(c) To the extent such property is not available for forfeiture, a sum of money equal to the total value of the property described in subparagraphs (a) and (b).

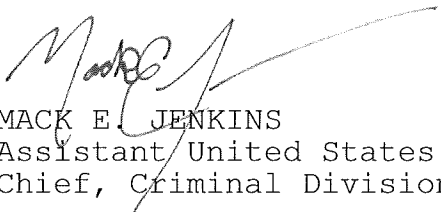
6. Pursuant to Title 21, United States Code, Section 853(p), as incorporated by Title 28, United States Code, Section 2461(c), any defendant so convicted shall forfeit substitute property, up to the value of the property described in the preceding paragraph if, as the result of any act or omission of said defendant, the property described in the preceding paragraph or any portion thereof (a) cannot be located upon the exercise of due diligence; (b) has been transferred, sold to, or deposited with a third party; (c) has been placed beyond the jurisdiction of the court; (d) has been

1 substantially diminished in value; or (e) has been commingled with
2 other property that cannot be divided without difficulty.

3
4 A TRUE BILL

5
6 
Foreperson

7
8 E. MARTIN ESTRADA
United States Attorney

9
10 
11 MACK E. JENKINS
Assistant United States Attorney
12 Chief, Criminal Division

13 SEAN D. PETERSON
Assistant United States Attorney
14 Chief, Riverside Branch Office

15 PETER DAHLQUIST
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